

## LA SOCIETE DES AMERICANISTES.

A NEW FRENCH ORGANIZATION AND ITS AMERICAN ENTHUSIASMS.

The presence of Li Hung Chang in this country may be relied upon to revive here and there some geographical discontents; the old fantastic theory of a Chinese discovery of America antedating the landing of Columbus by some 2,000 years. According to this picturesque tradition, which has been fostered by some savants and more amateurs, there was a certain adventurous Chinaman who sailed away about 500 years before the Christian era across the "azur sea" of the Orientals, Twenty thousand "li" to the westward he sailed and at last moored beside the "Kingdom" of Fou-sang; in other words, a land of remarkable vegetation and still more remarkable peoples, to which some modern research has been fair to apply the name of this continent. Flatterers of Li Hung Chang may well pour into his ears their belief in a notion in which he is himself probably most willing to acquiesce. But it would be interesting to know if this eminent statesman and personage from a highly "literary" nation knows the true value of such hypotheses.

The point in question is most effectively handled by M. Henri Cordier in the first number of a periodical of ethnographical and geographical research lately founded in Paris. In this "Journal de la Société des Américanistes de Paris" there is a paper entitled "Etat Actuel de la Question du 'Fou-sang,'" wherein M. Cordier successfully appeals to eminent European authorities to prove that it's impossible to identify Fou-sang with America. That the Chinese may at some remote time have reached those shores he freely admits, but their Fou-sang is as yet, he protests, a terra incognita for the geographer and scientist. All the documents in the case, such as they are, belong among the most obscure and confusing of Oriental literature, but in so far as their acts are comprehensible they point unmistakably to the existence of some land other than our own in the Fou-sang of tradition. M. Cordier cites the latest important contribution on the subject, that of Dr. Gustave Schlegel of Leyden, and the investigations of the latter plainly confirm his position. The value of this essay of M. Cordier's would be appreciated anywhere, but it is especially gratifying to find it in a journal which has been established with a scholarly enthusiasm for the study of purely American themes. The aim of "La Société des Américanistes de Paris" is the scientific and historical study of America and its inhabitants, from the earliest era to the present day. The Due de Loubat has interested himself in the society, which has made him honorary president. MM. Masséno and Oppert are honorary vice-presidents, and many distinguished savants are associated with them. Dr. Hamy, of the institute, is president, and the three regular vice-presidents are Prince Roland Bonaparte, General Meredith Read and the Marquise de Perlita. The secretary is M. Henri Cordier, the treasurer, the Marquis de Bassano, and the six members of the council are MM. Gabriel Marcel, Charles Maunoir, the Marquis de Nadalhac, Debré Peeter, Félix Régemayr and Count Louis de Turenne d'Aymar. These gentlemen have gone ardently to work in establishing their society, for the initial number of their "journal" is as vivacious and enthusiastic as it is erudite. The two preceding pages are shared by M. Cordier and Dr. Hamy, the latter contributing a minute survey of the American "selves" and models assembled at Genoa during the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. In this handsomely printed and scrupulously edited "Journal" the constitution and by-laws of the society are briefly set forth, and from these it is evident that the meetings will be characterized by the reading of papers as useful as those already printed, and by authoritative discussion. The whole enterprise is to be cordially received. It is in the hands of men who know their ground and who are much in earnest, resolving to make the Société a positive factor in the development of knowledge concerning American things.

## New Publications.

## D. APPLETON &amp; CO.'S NEW BOOKS.

THE INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD. Containing the Chapters on Perception, Emotion, Memory, Imagination, and Consciousness. By Gabriel Compagné. Translated from the French by Mary E. Wilson, B. L. Smith College. Member of the Graduate Seminary in Child Study, University of California. Vol. 35. International Education Series, 12mo, Cloth, \$1.50.

In America, Prof. Compagné, through the translation of his works on educational psychology, methods of instruction, and pedagogy, is already among the best-known writers on the subject of education in this country. The announcement of this volume will be gratifying to teachers and educators generally. The object of the present work is to furnish a practical manual for primary work, designed for teachers. Terms reasonable. Emily C. Price.

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COLUMBIA INSTITUTE, 120 W. 72d St., corner West End Ave., reopens Sept. 23. Commercial Preparation. Primary Dept.; optional Military Drill, Gymnasium, Play-ground. Five boarding pupils received. Catalogues. EDWIN POWELL, M. D., A. M. Prin.

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J. H. MORSE'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS. 423 MADISON AVENUE. Will reopen Thursday, Oct. 1st. For catalogues and information, address J. H. MORSE, 423 Madison Avenue, Boston, Mass.

PREPAREDNESS FOR Scientific Colleges at the Woodsbridge, 417 Madison Ave. 15th year begins Oct. 1st.

PREPARATION for the COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF MINES. The regular summer session of the Woodsbridge School, 417 Madison Ave., begins August 17th.

## Instruction.

## For Both Sexes—City.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE TRIBUNE.

Sir: This will appear in your paper Saturday morning, and on Tuesday morning next, I beg to thank the Packard College will open soon.

The opening of the Packard College is always an event full of interest, not only to the boys and girls who do the opening, but to the city and the country at large; for this is the starting point of many a young man's career, and many a young woman's as well. It is a happy thought, isn't it, that there is at last a chance for girls in the business world, and they are rapidly making their mark therein. Twenty years ago a girl who made up her mind to go into business as a bookkeeper or stenographer, at the same time put behind her all ideas of going into society to take care of themselves. Packard girls always know how to take care of themselves, and how to help others at the same time. But the main object of this letter is to announce to the readers of The Tribune that our doors will be open on Tuesday next, at 9 o'clock, for all who desire to begin work, or to continue work already begun. It is a day, too, when we shall be glad to see our friends and to assure them that the country is safe, that every dollar is and will continue to be worth one hundred cents, and better than that, people who are willing to work, are going to have a chance to earn it. Come and see us next Tuesday.

S. S. PACKARD,  
191 East 23d-st.  
New York, Aug. 27, 1896.

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